

Senate Resolution 1079

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Sims of the 12th, Tippins of the 37th and Black of the 8th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 3-7, 2016, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program and other quality early education programs prepare
4 children for school and set them on a path to reading proficiency by the end of third grade;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's early care and education industry cares for an estimated 337,000
7 children a year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers, including family
8 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
9 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program alone has served approximately 1.5 million of
11 Georgia's children since it began and currently provides quality early education experiences
12 to more than half of all of the state's four-year-old children; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of early care in Georgia
14 with over 800 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality improvement
15 system for child care programs; and

16 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
17 generating \$4.7 billion of economic activity in 2013 and providing approximately 68,000
18 jobs in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

19 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will host Georgia Pre-K Week for the sixth
20 consecutive year during the first full week of October; and

21 WHEREAS, the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy will provide quality Pre-K books
22 to legislators and to participating Pre-K centers; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly appropriate that this body express its gratitude to the hundreds
24 of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K program
25 and other high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators,
26 community members, business leaders, and school board members to participate in Georgia
27 Pre-K Week and to support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all
28 children in the great State of Georgia.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize October 3-7, 2016, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the capitol.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for
33 Georgia's Children.